News in the eye of the beholder

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S TRUE?

WHO CAN YOU RELY ON TO TELL THE TRUTH?

Terminology

► False News is different from Fake News

► False news is bad reporting; reporters failing to uphold standards

What is Fake News?

Fake news is a deliberate effort to mislead

This can be done by recognized journalists as well as people in the "business" of fake news or political advocates.

Best Practices of News Literacy

- ▶ 1. Know whom you are reading, listening to, watching

- ▶ 2. Remain skeptical until you can validate on your own terms

- ▶ 3. Choose trusted, proven, recognizable sources

News Detection

Avoid unknowns and/or check them carefully

Many websites that purport to deliver news are providing fake and fraudulent information

Steps You Can Take

- ► Avoid sites that won't tell you who they are

- ► Avoid sites that end in .com.co

- ► Watch out for sites that allow public bloggers to post and sites from "homemade" services like Wix and Wordpresss

Six Questions To Ask

▶ What Kind of Content Is This? News, opinion, ad, response to others

▶ Who is producing this content? Is the source to be trusted? Does the source have an axe to grind? Why should I believe them?

▶ Does the source provide evidence? Does the evidence prove the main point?

▶ What's missing? What are they not telling me?

Reasons for Optimism

- ▶ We are more aware now of fakery
- ▶ Legacy media are separating themselves aggressively to establish credibility
- ▶ A percentage of the public seems more concerned since the election
- ▶ Frauds are being outed by trusted sources

The Internet Echo Chamber and the Filter Bubble

▶ A more enduring problem concerns the circulation of bad information through social media

▶ This is connected to the concept of the Filter Bubble in which people construct their own world by choosing to hear only what supports their position

▶ The administration magnifies this by denying facts, asserting falsehoods and spinning everything